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Treasurer Fong Sells \$16 Million in Bonds Cal State-Fullerton, Cal State-L.A. to Benefit

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SACRAMENTO -- Treasurer Matt Fong sold two bonds worth \$16 million for two Southern California state universities Tuesday in a competitive sale that will provide funding for an expanded student union and refund prior bond debt.

One sale was for \$9,590,000 in refunding revenue bonds for the California State University, Fullerton campus. By refinancing old debt, the school will save a gross amount \$409,000 by lowering interest payments. The refunding bonds were awarded to Merrill Lynch, which offered a true interest cost of 5.451 percent.

"This bond sale will not only let CSU Fullerton save \$409,000, but it will free up other revenue to help the school meet the needs of their students," Fong said.

The second sale was for \$6,580,000 worth of revenue bonds to fund the construction of a student union at the California State University, Los Angeles campus. The project will add 6,500 gross square feet to the existing student union and provide a program and event center as well as food service areas and informal study areas. The project also includes the renovation of 2,200 square feet outside the student union for an informal gathering space and free speech area. The bonds will be retired using revenues from student fees. The bonds were awarded to Smith Barney, which offered a true interest cost of 5.6122 percent.

"These bonds will provide CSULA's students with new facilities and amenities that will make their college experience more enriching, and by doing so, it will also make the campus even more attractive to prospective students," Fong said.

The bonds were given the highest bond ratings by both Standard and Poor's and Moody's rating agencies as they are insured by AMBAC.